

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097533
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097533

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PBOR, UNSC, SY, LE, IS, SE

SUBJECT: AIRLIFTING SENEGALESE UNIFIL UNITS THROUGH DAMASCUS

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO AMBASSADOR MURPHY SUNDAY MORNING,
APRIL 16.

2. WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD TAKE UP WITH KHADDAM ON SUNDAY
OUR PROPOSAL TO AIRLIFT SENEGALESE UNIFIL UNITS THROUGH
DAMASCUS USING USAF AIRCRAFT (DETAILS IN SEPTTEL). YOUR
STRONGEST ARGUMENT IS THAT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DE-
PLOYMENT INTO SOUTH LEBANON OF UNIFIL UNITS IS THE KEY
TO FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN APRIL. WHILE THERE IS
NO LINKAGE BETWEEN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND UNIFIL DEPLOY-
MENT IN THE LEGAL SENSE, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT WILL BE
EASIER FOR THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW IF UNIFIL IS CLOSE TO
FULL STRENGTH. THE SENEGALESE UNIT COULD HELP TIP THE
BALANCE.

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3. YOU SHOULD MENTION MATTER OF FACTLY THAT WE CONSIDER
IT UNWISE TO LAND USAF AIRCRAFT IN LEBANON. WE LEAVE IT
TO YOU HOW TO PLAY THE FACT WITH THE SYRIANS THAT THE
ISRAELIS HAVE REFUSED TO ALLOW THE SENEGALESE UNIT TO LAND
AT BEN GURION AIRPORT, BUT ASSUME THAT THIS MIGHT MAKE A

DAMASCUS ARRANGEMENT MORE ATTRACTIVE FROM THE SYRIAN POINT
OF VIEW.

4. AN AIRLIFT INTO DAMASCUS FOR THIS PURPOSE WOULD BE
CONSISTENT WITH SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION 425. (FYI:
AS IT WILL BE OBVIOUS TO YOU, OF COURSE, CLOSER SYRIAN
ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNIFIL OPERATION AT THIS STAGE COULD
PRODUCE IMPORTANT DIVIDENDS FOR UNIFIL AND FOR OUR
OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON. END FYI.)
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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